Coalition to Defend the October 20th Freedom Fighters
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STATEMENTS FROM THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND GRAND JURY RESISTERS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE JOHN BROWN ANTI-KLAN COMMITTEE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 2-4, 1982

STATEMENT OF JUDY CLARK AND DAVID GILBERT

Greetings and solidarity. We cannot begin this message without expressing our total solidarity and commitment to the Joint Forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Lebanese National Movement and to the heroic masses of Palestinian and Lebanese people who are at this moment confronting one of history's most genocidal wars with a steadfastness and combative resolve that is truly writing history. As George Habash, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine recently said, "All the world is beginning to talk about the steadfastness of our people and their genuine patriotism, adhering to their rights, homeland and just cause. All the world is beginning to talk about our people as they talked about the Vietnamese, the Algerians and many other people who were capable of realizing their rights and defeating colonialism, using primitive means that were crowned with determination."

The Palestinian people have shown this determination in the face of a trilateral enemy of imperialism, zionism and Arab reaction--all led and armed by u.s. imperialism. They have resisted through long years of conquest, terror, displacement, occupation, betrayals and new invasions. By pursuing a strategy of protracted peoples war, they have forged an ever greater strength and resistance. "Israel", confronted with the rising level of militant struggle of the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories, invaded Lebanon, expecting to use overwhelming military force and terror to quickly destroy the fighting capacity of the Palestinian revolution. But the heroic resistance, waged by the Joint Forces of the PLO and LNM stymied these goals and made clear to the world that their struggle will never be defeated. The zionists, faced with the inability to destroy the fighting forces, have unleashed a total war of destruction and genocide upon the Palestinian and Lebanese masses that serves to expose the fascist, criminal nature of zionism.

The heroism and steadfastness of the Palestinian struggle and the blood of the tens of thousands of martyrs in Lebanon demands of all of us an immediate and protracted commitment to fight the international forces of zionism, to confront u.s. imperialism with the crimes of this war and to fight with everything we have for the destruction of the state of "israel", for a democratic, secular Palestine. At the same time, we must learn from this example, that the power of a people fighting a just cause, and pursuing a strategy of protracted peoples war is undefeatable. To pursue that same path, we must take unto ourselves the same fortitude, steadfastness and heroism, based in an unwavering belief in the humanity and creative power of oppressed and exploited people.

The John Brown Anti-Klan Conference is happening in the midst of war, from the battlefields of Lebanon, to the streets of Brooklyn, New York. It is happening on this "holiday" weekend, when the imperialists hold their celebrations of the victory by amerikan colonists who won their freedom from England--their freedom to forge an empire on stolen land, blood and labor of

Native American peoples, New Afrikan peoples and Mexicano peoples. So it is only appropriate that we are celebrating this day, by holding this conference to build a movement of anti-imperialist/anti-klan fighters who commit themselves to the struggle against imperialism and white supremacy, and by doing so, join forces with oppressed and exploited people around the world. In that context, we celebrate the revolutionary history of struggle on this date, taking particular note of the actions of Puerto Rican patriots, Nydia Cuevas and Pablo Mercano. On July 3, 1978, they exposed the lie of this imperialist holiday forced upon the Puerto Rican people by occupying theChilean consulate in San Juan, demanding independence for Puerto Rico and expressing solidarity with the Chilean people fighting the fascist junta backed by u.s. imperialism.

We send our greetings to all those gathered at this conference who by your presence show a seriousness in confronting the enormous tasks we have before us to build this movement. We send our solidarity to the representatives of the National liberation struggles participating and giving leadership to this conference. Our love and comradeship goes to all Prisoners of War and political prisoners and to the fighting forces of the Black Liberation Army, Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional Puertorriquena, the Revolutionary Armed Task Force and all the freedom fighters in the field.

This conference is occuring just over a month after leading public forces of the New Afrikan liberation struggle, Puerto Rican Independence Movement, Chicano/Mexicano struggle and anti-imperialist movement met in Denver, occupied Mexico, in a Conference Against Repression. At that conference, Third World revolutionaries struggled to build greater political unity and give clear revolutionary definition to the development of a strategy and program for this period. One of the clear mandates expressed to the white anti-imperialists there was to build the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee nationally. To build a mass movement to fight the klan and all organized white supremacy and to build militant solidarity with the New Afrikan liberation struggle and all national liberation struggles.

So there can be no underestimation of the seriousness of the tasks you must accomplish at this conference and in the coming period. It is nothing less than a life and death question. If you have any doubt about that, just think of what is happening: the lynching of a Black worker and the attempted murder of two other Black workers by a white racist mob in Brooklyn, New York; the point blank shooting of Deloros Young, a Black woman in Los Angeles by killer cops, that led to the death of her unborn child; the continuing murders of Black youth and women in Atlanta in the wake of the state's railroad of Wayne Williams; la migra terror raids against Mexicano people along the illegal border and nationally; the threat by the Jewish Defense League that no Palestinian is safe to walk the streets of New York at the same time that their counterparts murdered two Palestinians in Italy. Because we recognize that this white supremacist mobilization is central to imperialism's strategy to consolidate fascism and its domination over Third World nations, we understand that the issues that confront us also mean the life or death of a movement that can defeat fascist reaction and fight for the victory of revolution and socialism.

We do not want to be repetitive of all the material and analysis from your work and from the leadership of Third World forces that you will be discussing. We will try to address some specific issues from our perspective as captured anti-imperialist freedom fighters and based in the strategic principles of the RATF.

When we talk about fighting the klan and all the organized forces of white supremacy, we are talking about fighting the u.s. imperialist state. The growth and arming of the klan and mercenaries and the heightening of systematic white supremacist terror against Black, Chicano/Mexicano and all Third World people today is part of imperialism's war strategy, internationally and internally. That is why we see the klan and mercenaries being trained together by u.s. military personnel. That is why the klan organizes rallies supporting killer cops and controls ~~the controls~~ the PBA; why direct FBI involvement in klan murders keeps being exposed; why the klan joins the migra in terrorizing Mexican people; why the government collaborated with the white supremacist armies killing Black children in Atlanta by attacking Black self-defense forces and railroading Wayne Williams. The klan is the sharpest expression of the unity between the imperialist state and sectors of the working class and petty bourgeoisie of the white oppressor nation. It draws its base of strength from the system of white supremacy, rallying white people to fight for empire and white power against Third World people struggling for human rights and self-determination. There is no such thing as a reformist, pacifist strategy to fight the klan. To demand that the government stop the klan is to ask our enemy to cut off its right arm.

Certain strategic principes flow from this. First, that we can not fight to destroy the klan (and nothing less can be our goal) separate from an overall strategy to defeat u.s. imperialism. The movement we build must be anti-imperialist in content and recognize that the klan and the system of white supremacy will be destroyed in the destruction of the u.s. empire through the waging of peoples war to free New Afrika, reclaim the northern half of Mexico to build a socialist reunified Mexico, win soveriegnty for Native American nations and win independence and socialism for Puerto Rico. The John Brown Anti-klan Committee must take strategic leadership from the Black liberation struggle, and build solidarity with the Black liberation struggle and all national liberation struggles. This means supporting the right of Third World people to armed self-defense and to building the armed clandestine movements that can lead in the development of revolutionary strategy. The fight to free Prisoners of War and political prisoners is central to that. The work that John Brown has done as part of the Coalition to Defend the October 20th Freedom Fighters has been important. It has fought for the leadership of New Afrikan freedom fighters and the Black Liberation Army and given concrete support to the captive freedom fighters resisting torture and attacks. It exposes and attacks the terror of the u.s. counter-insurgency forces who, in the name of "fighting terrorism" organize a mass white supremacist base of support for counter-insurgency warfare against the leading forces of national liberation. This work must define the fundamental issue involved as support for the right of Black people to self-determination by any means necessary, while pointing to the strategy of Peoples War that will ultimately defeat the klan and all forms of white supremacy. In this context, people must fight for the leadership

of white anti-imperialist freedom fighters and the RATF, who in forging the highest level of solidarity with the struggle of New Afrika are building the basis for the development of a full revolutionary strategy and the participation of white working class people in the destruction of u.s. imperialism and the fight for socialism.

This points to another strategic principle that flows from understanding the true nature of the klan and its various counterparts. They are armed, clandestine terrorist organizations that are actively waging war against Third World people. Their leadership and power comes from this, and from their integral relationship to the regular armed forces of the imperialist state--from the police and army to the FBI and the CIA. Any strategy against the klan has to be multi-leveled. The fight against the klan has been led by the Black liberation struggle, which has waged armed self-defense, built organized clandestine armed forces, and mobilized its masses to combat klan terror. But it must be fully embraced by white revolutionaires and anti-imperialists at all these levels, who are in a position to infiltrate, investigate and strike against it. The klan must be villified, isolated, attacked and neutralized.

In waging armed struggle against the klan and other white terrorists, we can begin to change the balance of forces by challenging their monopoly of power and undermining their ability to lead and mobilize masses of white people, by sharpening and clarifying the choices involved. By waging armed struggle against these forces, we challenge the seeming invincibility of the state and its base level terrorist organizations. By exposing the unity between them and the state, we crack open the veneer of bourgeois democracy to expose the true nature of imperialist rule. All this serves to break the ideologicla hegemony of the imperialists over the white proletariat. The development of consistent armed practice against the organized forces of white supremacy and the building of the ranks of the armed clandestine movement will transform and give power to the anti-klan movement. In so doing, we both make a particular contribution to national liberation and help to set a revolutionary direction as the basis for organizing thousands of white working class people away from empire and for proletarian internationalism and socialism. While supporting the armed clandestine forces of the national liberation struggles, your work against the klan must support and help build the ranks of the RATF and all white revolutionaries waging armed struggle against imperialism under Third World leadership, and to organize masses of working class people, women and youth to become militant anti-klan, anti-imperialist fighters.

We must be clear that we are internationalists fighting an international system. We must build a fighting solidarity with the liberation struggles in Azania and Namibia, fighting the white supremacist rule of South Africa, as well as African nations, such as the Congo, fighting against neo-colonialism and imperialism. The victories of these struggles, like the ongoing fight for the socialist reconstruction of Zimbabwe, are strategic blows against the world-wide system of u.s.-led imperialism and the system of white supremacy.

The struggle of the Palestinian people, being forged on the battlefield of Lebanon, in the occupied territories, and throughout the Arab Nation make clear the strategic priority for all anti-imperialists to fight zionism and

build solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people against zionism, imperialism and Arab reaction. Zionism is imperialism's bulwark in the strategic Middle East. It imposes white settler rule over the land of Palestine, seeking to drive out and destroy the Palestinian people and continuously expand the territory of the israeli state. It pursues a genocidal war against Palestinian national liberation and against social revolution in the Arab world; it buttresses white supremacy and fascism worldwide. Within the u.s., the heartland of the world wide system of imperialism, zionism is a major mode of mobilization for white supremacy, anti-communism and attacks on Third World people. Zionism is rampant within the ranks of the white left and women's movement, serving to give a "legitimate" cover to the fight for white power and genocide. Our fight against zionism must be fierce and uncompromising, must expose u.s. imperialism's leading role in maintaining zionist rule in the Middle East, and must raise unconditional support for the protracted peoples war to destroy the state of "israel" and build a democratic secular state of Palestine.

Finally, we think it is critical to recognize that the strength of the white supremacist mobilization cannot lead us to abandoning our fundamental task of organizing and giving leadership to white working class people to fight imperialism as their enemy. The victories and advances of the struggles of Third World people for national liberation and socialism are the main forces in the world and open up a new future for all of humanity--a future that masses of the white proletariat have a stake in fighting for and being a part of. In this period of crisis and decline, working class people will bear more of the burden for maintaining the system, while at the same time competition and white supremacy intensify. The impact of anti-imperialist organization and struggle that is part of an overall revolutionary strategy, led by the national liberation struggles, can be critical in denying imperialism the consolidated base it needs, and in winning significant numbers of working class people to ally with national liberation struggles, identify imperialism as their enemy and socialism as their goal. Within this, we must take heed of why the klan has made women and youth their number one organizing priority. Imperialism is bent on bringing masses of women into the heart of the fight for empire, joining the ranks of the klan, police, military, law and order vigilanteeism and mass white supremacist movements. For our part, we must organize women to follow the leadership of women freedom fighters who are fighting and defeating imperialism, the enemy of all oppressed and exploited women, and defining a revolutionary strategy for women's liberation in the struggle to participate fully in peoples war for national liberation and socialism. No movement of women that does not take leadership from and place itself on these terms and that fails to struggle against white supremacy can be successful in fighting the increased oppression and attacks on women or fighting for women's liberation. By the same token, no anti-klan movement will take root and grow that does not fight for the full participation of women and embrace the struggles for women's liberation.

We must provide our youth with a clear alternative to the non-stop fascist, white supremacist mobilization and violence they are subjected to in their schools and communities, and struggle with them and empower them to play the vanguard role that youth play in every revolutionary struggle. This entails giving them a vision of a future worth fighting for and providing them with

clear examples of revolutionary ideology and proletarian morality. To build a revolutionary morality means that our actions and our ideology must be consistent. We must show in practice that we do not abide by the murder of Third World people, by white fascist mobs, killer cops, zionist terrorists or CIA-directed mercenaries. There is no peaceful co-existence with the imperialist system. We must go to war, understanding that when guided by a correct strategy and enobled by a socialist ideology, human beings are limitless in our capacity for heroism and steadfastness. In waging war against imperialism and white supremacy, we struggle to transform ourselves to embody the ideals that we are fighting for and to build the seeds of a society that respects human life, upholds self-determination and builds toward a socialist future.

STATEMENT OF ALAN BERKMAN

I want to send you my love, my support, and my thanks for the intense work and struggle that have gone into building this conference. I can assure you that I'm with you with every fiber of my being and that I feel stronger and more committed to resist in knowing that this weekend will bring the death of the Klan one step closer and the liberation of all oppressed people from u.s. imperialism nearer to victory.

I want to extend my solidarity to each of the national liberation struggles represented here this weekend. I particularly extend my support to the heroic people of Lebanon and Palestine and to the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO. Their fierce resistance in the face of genocidal attack by the racist entity should root all of us more deeply in the need to fight u.s. imperialism and in the inevitability of victory. The sacrifices being made now will guarantee that future generations of Palestinians will grow up in a free, independent, and socialist Palestine. Victory to the PLO! There is no "Israel"—There is only Palestine!

The same love of freedom and the same science of revolution that guides the people of Palestine, Namibia, Azania, the Congo, and El Salvador in their struggles are leading the development of revolutionary struggle here. Armed clandestine organizations--the BLA, the FALN, the RATF--are leading their nation's struggle for liberation and the development of revolutionary consciousness and movement. By initiating the armed struggle they've clarified and simplified the issues for all of us: Victory or Death! When we talk this weekend and in the future about the leadership of the freedom fighters, about resistance, and about non-collaboration, let us remember that every principle of revolutionary struggle that the freedom fighters embody is a principle that will guide us to victory.

How different the leadership of the freedom fighters is than that of the opportunists who want to stop the Klan by appealing to Ronald Reagan to invoke a state of emergency. How different our leadership is that those who want to stop the grand jury but who put staying out of jail primary and who cry about abuses of the Constitution and won't struggle about the fundamental issues of repression and resistance and revolution. These are the same forces who refused to support the BLA's action against the NYPD in August 1981 or the BLA action against the Eastern Rugby Union in September 1981. When October 20th happened, these same opportunists were the first to say: "If they had only done something political—like the Klan—maybe I could support it." They shouldn't worry; the armed clandestine movements will undoubtedly raise the price to those who choose to put on aKlan robe. But they won't support those actions either: they don't have a different strategy, they have totally capitulated.

I did not have the opportunity to go to Denver but I have spoken and gotten letters from comrades all over the country. Two things that I've heard from almost everyone from the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee are:

1) JBAKC must function as the solidarity movement of the New African Independence Movement; and

2) As part of the mass anti-imperialist struggle in this country, we must self-consciously function as a shield for the armed clandestine forces.

These are critical to keep foremost in our mind this weekend. But each time we think of solidarity, let's think of the need to fight and defeat organized white supremacy. And each time we think of being a shield, remember that it is a shield for the most vibrant and offensive aspect of the revolutionary struggle. We need to create a mass struggle based on the same revolutionary principles as the armed struggle that will nurture the growth of the armed clandestine movements into the people's armies.

If we are to truly be the solidarity movement of the New Afrikan Independence Movement, then we must internalize--as individuals and as a movement--a total commitment to the liberation of New Afrika. That is the commitment that motivates our comrades Judy Clark and David Gilbert as members of the RATF. It is the commitment that Eve and I made as part of this movement when we refused to collaborate with the grand jury. If we deepen our collective commitment this weekend, we can emerge with a clearer view of our strategy to build over a period of years, and with the certainty that our children will live in a society with no Ku Klux Klan.

Death To The Klan!
Independence and Socialism for New Afrika!
Socialist Reunification of Mexico!
Independence and Socialism for Puerto Rico!
Sovereignty For Native American Nations!
Defeat u.s. imperialism!

STATEMENT OF EVE ROSAHN

I send my revolutionary greetings to this forum which opens the first National Conference of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, and to all the national liberation movements and anti-imperialist organizations represented here. I extend my total solidarity to the representatives of the Palestinian people's struggle. The resoluteness of the PLO and of the entire Palestinian people in the face of u.s./israeli terrorism is an inspiration to all struggling people. The entire world is learning a lesson about the power of protracted people's war.

This forum takes place at a time when the victories of oppressed peoples from Zimbabwe to Nicaragua are defeating u.s. imperialism and white supremacy, and defining people's war for national liberation as the only strategy that can bring about imperialism's ultimate fall. And within these borders the struggles of the New Afrikan, Puerto Rican, Chicano/Mexicano and Native American peoples are advancing, and armed clandestine movements building to lead the struggle for land, independence and socialism. In response, imperialism is mobilizing all of its military, "legal" and ideological forces. Those forces may wear police blue or klan robes or u.s. attorney's pin stripes, but they have one goal: through terror and repression, to attempt to destroy the resistance of oppressed peoples, their will and capacity to fight.

The N.Y. RICO grand jury, which is hunting for the Black Liberation Army and attempting to imprison its supporters, is part of imperialism's offensive. Those of us who are imprisoned for resisting the grand jury attack are following the tradition and leadership of Puerto Rican and ChicanoMexicano revolutionaries who have shown that an uncompromising stand of non-collaboration can defend the armed clandestine movement, defeat the grand jury, and build the entire anti-imperialist struggle. And in this period when imperialism is fighting to solidify the allegiance of the white working class, progressive and revolutionary white people must unite with the principle of non-collaboration to deny this system the consolidated base of white supremacist support it needs to build a fascist system.

Imperialism and white supremacy will be defeated, and the oppressed nations will win land and independence, and build socialism. If the white anti-imperialist movement takes up our tasks--to build a militant movement against white supremacist/state terror, in solidarity with the New Afrikan Independence Movement and all national liberation struggles; to support and defend the armed clandestine movements; to refuse to collaborate with the imperialist state--we can be allies in the struggle that is defeating u.s. imperialism and building a new world. If we struggle--like John Brown, like Judy Clark and David Gilbert--we can win.